

**Notice of Allowability****Application No.**

09/717,303

**Examiner**

DJENANE M. BAYARD

**Applicant(s)**

WANG BALDONADO ET AL.

**Art Unit**

2444

**-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--**

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to 11/29/10.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1,3,5,6,8,9,11,13,14,16,17,19,21,22,24,25,31-33,40,41,43,44,46 and 47.
3. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some\* c) ☐ None of the:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* Certified copies not received: \_\_\_\_.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

**THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.**

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
- (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
- 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_.
- (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

**Attachment(s)**

1. ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08), Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
6. ☒ Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_
7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other \_\_\_\_.

/Djenane M Bayard/  
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 2444

### EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Krista Wittman on 4/5/11.

The application has been amended as follows:

1. (currently amended) An information stream monitoring system comprising:  
an information monitoring device adapted to monitor one or more electronic email documents in an information stream associated with a first electronic forum, and ~~compares to~~ compare information about the one or more electronic email documents to two or more rules, wherein the comparison is between newer of the one or more email documents and older of the one or more email documents to determine when a new topic of conversation has begun;  
a forum spawning device adapted to query a set consisting of users participating in the first forum when at least two of the two or more rules ~~[[is]]~~ are satisfied, and ~~creates to create~~ a new electronic forum based on one or more replies from the set of users; and  
a subscriber determining device adapted to determine which of the queried users indicate interest in the new electronic forum and ~~subscribes to subscribe~~ each interested user to the new electronic forum, but ~~[[does]]~~ not to subscribe users of the set who do not indicate interest in the new electronic forum,  
wherein the two or more rules comprise at least two of the following: how long the electronic forum has been in use; how many email messages have been exchanged on the electronic forum; whether there has been a suggestion to create a new discussion forum; whether a certain number of email messages on a particular topic have been received within a

predetermined time period; whether [[the]] a rate of email messages exchanged on a particular topic [[been]] is statistically greater than normal; or whether a certain number of forum members exchanged email messages on a particular topic within a predetermined time period,

further wherein the information monitoring device, the forum spawning device, and the subscriber determining device are executed by a processor.

9. (currently amended) An information stream monitoring method comprising:  
monitoring one or more email documents in an information stream associated with a first forum;

comparing information about the one or more email documents to two or more rules, wherein the comparing is comparing newer of the one or more email documents to older of the one or more email documents to determine when a new topic of conversation has begun;

querying a set consisting of users participating in the first electronic forum when at least two of the two or more rules [[is]] are satisfied;

creating a new electronic forum automatically based on one or more replies from the set of users, and

subscribing each queried user of the set indicating interest in the new electronic forum to the new electronic forum, but not subscribing to the new electronic forum users of the set who do not indicate interest,

wherein the two or more rules comprise at least two of the following: how long the electronic forum has been in use; how many email messages have been exchanged on the electronic forum; whether there has been a suggestion to create a new discussion forum; whether a certain number of email messages on a particular topic have been received within a predetermined time period; whether [[the]] a rate of email messages exchanged on a particular topic [[been]] is statistically greater than normal; or whether a certain number of forum members exchanged email messages on a particular topic within a predetermined time period.

17. (currently amended) A ~~computer-readable information~~ non-transitory computer-readable storage media comprising information that, when executed by a computer, cause the computer to perform a method comprising:

monitoring one or more email documents in an information stream associated with a first electronic forum;

comparing information about the one or more email documents to two or more rules, wherein the comparison is between newer of the one or more email documents and older of the one or more email documents to determine when a new topic of conversation has begun;

querying a set consisting of users participating in the first electronic forum when at least two of the two or more rules ~~[[is]]~~ are satisfied;

creating a new electronic forum based on one or more replies from the set of users; and

subscribing each queried user of the set indicating interest in the new electronic forum to the new electronic forum, but not subscribing to the new electronic forum users of the set who do not indicate interest,

wherein the two or more rules comprise at least two of the following: how long the electronic forum has been in use; how many email messages have been exchanged on the electronic forum; whether there has been a suggestion to create a new discussion forum; whether a certain number of email messages on a particular topic have been received within a predetermined time period; whether ~~[[the]]~~ a rate of email messages exchanged on a particular topic ~~[[been]]~~ is statistically greater than normal; or whether a certain number of forum members exchanged email messages on a particular topic within a predetermined time period.

19. (previously presented) The ~~non-transitory~~ computer-readable ~~information~~ storage media of claim 17, wherein querying the set of users determines a need for the new electronic forum.

46. (currently amended) The non-transitory computer-readable ~~information~~ storage media of claim 17, further comprising: detecting whether the new topic of conversation is likely to generate additional email messages.

47. (currently amended) The non-transitory computer-readable ~~information~~ storage media of claim 17, wherein the subscribers to the new electronic forum receive email messages from both the first electronic forum and the new electronic forum.

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: The prior art on record fails to teach an information monitoring device adapted to monitor one or more electronic email documents in an information stream associated with a first electronic forum, and to compare information about the one or more electronic email documents to two or more rules, wherein the comparison is between newer of the one or more email documents and older of the one or more email documents to determine when a new topic of conversation has begun; a forum spawning device adapted to query a set consisting of users participating in the first forum when at least two of the two or more rules is satisfied, and to create a new electronic forum based on one or more replies from the set of users; and a subscriber determining device adapted to determine which of the queried users indicate interest in the new electronic forum and to subscribe each interested user to the new electronic forum, but not to subscribe users of the set who do not indicate interest in the new electronic forum, wherein the two or more rules comprise at least two of the following: how long the electronic forum has been in use; how many email messages have been exchanged on the electronic forum; whether there has been a suggestion to create a new discussion forum; whether a certain number of email messages on a particular topic have been received within a predetermined time period; whether a rate of email messages

exchanged on a particular topic is statistically greater than normal; or whether a certain number of forum members exchanged email messages on a particular topic within a predetermined time period in combination with all the elements in the independent claims.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to DJENANE M. BAYARD whose telephone number is (571)272-3878. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday- Friday 5:30 AM- 3:00 PM..

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, William Jr Vaughn can be reached on (571) 272-3922. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

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